Amendment to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original):   A switching module for a data communication switch having a plurality of switching modules interconnected over a backplane, comprising:

a first port for receiving packet data including a source address and a destination address;

means for checking whether a source association between the source address and the first port has been made; and

means for making the source association and providing source association information to other switching modules,

wherein the means for making the source association makes the source association when the source association has not been made.

Claim 2 (original):   The switching module of claim 1, further comprising:

means for checking whether a destination association between the destination address and a second port has been made; and

means for making the association while current packets are flooded over a multicast queue.

Claim 3 (original):   The switching module of claim 2, wherein when the destination association has been made, packets are transitioned from traversing the multicast queue to a unicast queue.

Claim 4-60 (canceled)

Claim 61 (currently amended): A data communication switch, comprising:

a plurality of switching modules, each switching module comprising:

an access controller having one or more ports for receiving a packet including a destination address and source address;

a switching controller coupled to the access controller for receiving the packet from the access controller; and

a queue controller coupled to the switching controller for receiving the packet from the switching controller,

wherein the queue controller is adapted to transmit a first set of one or more values to a first element in response to the packet, and receive a first port associated with the first set of one or more values from the first element; transmit a second set of one or more values to a second element in response to the packet, and receive a second port associated with the second set of one or more values from the second element; transmit a third set of one or more values to a third element in response to the packet, and receive a priority and a bandwidth from the third element in response to the third plurality of values; and transmit the packet using a unicast queue, the destination address, the second port, and the priority;

a backplane coupled to the switching modules for exchanging packet data originated by and destined to external network devices; and

a control path coupled to the switching modules for exchanging control data originated by and destined to the switching modules wherein the control data includes information regarding associations between external network devices and ports of the data communication switch.

Claim 62 (canceled)

Claim 63 (currently amended): The data communication switch of claim 61 [[62]], wherein the queue controller transmits a fourth plurality of values to a fourth element if the source address and first port association are not received in response to the first plurality of values, and wherein the queue controller receives the source address and first port association from the fourth element in response to the fourth plurality of values.

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Claim 64 (original): The data communication switch of claim 63, wherein the queue controller transmits the packet using a multicast queue and transmits a fifth plurality of values to the fourth element if the destination address and the second port association are not received in response to the second plurality of values, and wherein the queue controller receives the destination address and the second port association from the fourth element in response to the fifth plurality of values, delays the packet flow, and transmits the packet using a unicast queue.

Claim 65 (new): The data communication switch of claim 61, wherein the first set of one or more values comprises a source address.

Claim 66 (new): The data communication switch of claim 61, wherein the first element is a source address resolution element.

Claim 67 (new): The data communication switch of claim 61, wherein the second set of one or more values comprises a destination address.

Claim 68 (new): The data communication switch of claim 61, wherein the second element is a destination address resolution element.

Claim 69 (new): The data communication switch of claim 61, wherein the third set of one or more values comprises one or more properties associated with the packet.

Claim 70 (new): The data communication switch of claim 61, wherein the third element is a queue identifier element.

Claim 71 (new): The data communication switch of claim 63, wherein the fourth set of one or more values comprises a source address.

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Claim 72 (new): The data communication switch of claim 63, wherein the fourth element is a source learning element.

Claim 73 (new): The data communication switch of claim 64, wherein the fifth set of one or more values comprises a destination address.

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